

and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL), the ranking member of my subcommittee.

Mr. BOEHLERT. Madam Speaker, I would like to join my colleagues in thanking the employees of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for their hard work this hurricane season. I thank my colleague from Michigan, Mr. EHLERS, for introducing this resolution and bringing it to the floor today. Each hurricane season the employees at NOAA provide vital forecasts and warnings to residents in harm's way, minimizing loss of life and property. This year they have gone above and beyond the call of duty with the high number of powerful storms making landfall in the United States. The employees at NOAA who support hurricane forecasts and warning exemplify service to the nation and I am proud to recognize their hard work today.

Mr. GORDON. Madam Speaker, this hurricane season was predicted to be an active one. Unfortunately, the prediction is being fulfilled. We have not yet come to the end of the season and already the eastern half of the country has experienced widespread damage due to three of these storms—hurricanes Charley, Frances and Ivan. In addition, two other offshore hurricanes are being monitored as we speak.

The severe coastal damage in Florida and Alabama, widespread inland flooding, and tornadoes have resulted in loss of life and property throughout the eastern part of the nation—including my home state of Tennessee. We should move quickly to provide assistance to our citizens who are now beginning to assess the damage and make plans to rebuild their homes, communities and businesses. They have a daunting task in the days ahead.

The effects of these storms are devastating, however, without accurate forecasting and time to prepare the toll in human lives would have been unimaginable. Our investments in research and development, weather satellites, specialized aircraft and computer modeling capability coupled with the dedication and professionalism of NOAA's employees has paid off in the timely warnings that we rely upon.

Madam Speaker, with this resolution we express our gratitude to the federal employees and their partners in the commercial weather business for their efforts in bringing the life-saving warnings and forecasts to our citizens. I urge my colleagues to support this effort to recognize the important work done by the employees of NOAA.

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGETT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 488, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The title of the concurrent resolution was amended so as to read: "Concurrent resolution commending the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and its employees for its dedication and hard work during Hurricanes Charley, Frances, and Ivan."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JUSTIN W. WILLIAMS UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S BUILDING

Mr. BURNS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3428) to designate a portion of the United States courthouse located at 2100 Jamieson Avenue, in Alexandria, Virginia, as the "Justin W. Williams United States Attorney's Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3428

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The building and structure described in subsection (b) shall be known and designated as the "Justin W. Williams United States Attorney's Building".

(b) DESCRIPTION.—The building and structure to be designated under subsection (a) is that portion of the United States courthouse located at 2100 Jamieson Avenue, in Alexandria, Virginia (known as the Albert V. Bryan United States Courthouse), that is attached to the courthouse main tower structure, described as A-Wing in the architectural plans, and currently occupied by the Office of the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, Alexandria Division.

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the building and structure described in section 1(b) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Justin W. Williams United States Attorney's Building".

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for appropriate identifying designations to be affixed to the building and structure described in section 1(b) and for an appropriate plaque reflecting the designation and honoring Justin W. Williams and his service to the Nation to be affixed to or displayed in such building and structure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BURNS) and the gentleman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BURNS).

Mr. BURNS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 3428 introduced by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS), designates a portion of the United States courthouse located at 2100 Jamieson Avenue in Alexandria, Virginia, as the Justin W. Williams United States Attorney's Building. The full courthouse is known as the Albert V. Bryan United States Courthouse.

This bill has the bipartisan support of the entire Virginia delegation.

Born in New York City in 1942, Justin Williams earned his bachelor's degree from Columbia University in 1963, and his law degree from the University of Virginia in 1967. After graduation, Justin Williams embarked upon his legal career. From 1967 to 1986 he worked for Department of Justice, Criminal Division. He served as Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney in Arlington County

and the Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, based in Alexandria.

In 1986, Justin Williams was appointed Chief of the Criminal Division and served in that capacity until his death in 2003. As U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, he supervised over 100 prosecutors and oversaw such high-profile cases as U.S. v. Aldrich Ames, U.S. v. Robert Hanssen, and the prosecution of the Virginia Jihad Network.

In recognition of his achievements, Justin Williams received numerous awards from the Department of Justice, including the Attorney General's Award for Excellence in Furthering the Interests of U.S. National Security. Justin Williams passed away August 31, 2003.

Shortly after the 1-year anniversary of his death, it is my pleasure to bring to the floor this bill which honors a dedicated American who spent his entire career making America safer for everyone. I support this legislation, and I courage my colleagues to do the same.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3428, a bill to designate a portion of the Alexandria courthouse located at 2100 Jamieson Avenue as the Justin W. Williams United States Attorney's Building. The bill was introduced by our colleague, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS), and enjoys very strong bipartisan support.

U.S. Attorney Justin Williams was an extraordinary public servant who served the citizens of Virginia for over 30 years. He received his undergraduate degree from Columbia University and his law degree from the University of Virginia. During his 33 years as a Federal prosecutor, he supervised or was directly involved in every major Federal prosecution in the Eastern District of Virginia.

His career is filled with numerous awards and honors, including the Attorney General's Award for Excellence that is awarded for furthering the interest of national security, the Director's Award for Sustained Superior Performance in the years of 1990, 2000, and 2002, and Sustained Superior Performance for the years of 1990, 1991, 1997, 1998, and 1999.

In addition to being an outstanding lawyer, Justin Williams was a thoughtful mentor, loyal friend, outstanding role model, devoted husband, and a loving father. It is most fitting that we honor the distinguished career of this dedicated public servant with this designation.

□ 1600

Mr. Speaker, I have no additional requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues' support of H.R. 3428, and

thank the gentlewoman from Texas for her comments. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BURNS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3428.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REQUEST FOR REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2028

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, due to the radical changes made by the committee to the introduced bill, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my name as a cosponsor from H.R. 2028.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 7(b) of rule XII, the Chair is constrained not to entertain that request, as the bill has been reported from committee and referred to the calendar.

JOE SKEEN FEDERAL BUILDING

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3734) to designate the Federal building located at Fifth and Richardson Avenues in Roswell, New Mexico, as the "Joe Skeen Federal Building."

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3734

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The Federal building located at Fifth and Richardson Avenues in Roswell, New Mexico, shall be known and designated as the "Joe Skeen Federal Building".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Joe Skeen Federal Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BURNS) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BURNS).

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 3734, introduced by my colleague, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON), designates the Federal building located at Fifth and Richardson Avenues in Roswell, New Mexico, as the Joe Skeen Federal Building.

Congressman Skeen was born and raised on his family's farm outside of Roswell, New Mexico. In 1948, Congressman Skeen enlisted in the United States Navy and served for 1 year before transferring to the United States Air Force Reserves, where he served from 1949 until 1952.

Following his military service, Congressman Skeen attended and graduated from Texas A&M University with a degree in agricultural engineering.

After graduation, Congressman Skeen worked as a soil and water engineer for the Zuni and Ramah Navajo Indians. He later purchased and ran his family's sheep ranch.

Congressman Skeen was long dedicated to public service. He was first elected to public office in 1960 where he won a seat in the New Mexico State senate. He served until 1970. For the last 6 years of his time in the State senate, he served as the minority leader.

In 1980, Congressman Skeen ran as a write-in candidate and was elected to serve in New Mexico's 2nd District in the United States House of Representatives. Congressman Skeen served in this body for 11 terms.

Congressman Skeen was known for his commitment to property rights, balancing the Federal budget and increased tax relief. He may have been most influential as chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies, enhancing the agricultural viability in both New Mexico and throughout the United States. He was also chairman of the Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies, dealing with natural resources and public land use.

I support this legislation and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

H.R. 3734 is a bill to designate the Federal building in Roswell, New Mexico, as the Joe Skeen Federal Building, in honor of a former Member here, Congressman Joe Skeen.

Congressman Skeen was born in Roswell, New Mexico, in 1927, and as a young man, he served a 1-year enlistment in the Navy and served in the Air Force Reserves from 1949 to 1952. In 1950, he got his Texas marks by graduating from Texas A&M University.

He was elected to Congress in 1980 as a write-in candidate in the general election. He was only the third person in the Nation's history to win a U.S. House seat through this type of effort. For more than 2 decades, he served the people of the 2nd district in New Mexico with distinction and devotion, and I had the pleasure of serving with him.

As Congressman, he focused his energy and interests on agriculture, national defense, and public land management. In 1985, he became a member of the House Committee on Appropriations, and in 1995, he became Chair of the Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies. At the beginning of the 107th Congress, he was named the Chair of the Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies.

One of Congressman Skeen's major legislative accomplishments was to ensure the opening of the waste isolation pilot plant, the Nation's first repository for defense-related waste. Concerned about the public's health and safety and the environment, Congressman Joe Skeen worked tirelessly to advance storage of Federal waste.

He supported legislation to maintain the viability of the agricultural industry. He also has been a leader in supporting legislative initiatives on a balanced budget, crime education and military spending. He is an unapologetic advocate of local control, insisting that citizens make their own determination and not let the legislature do it for them.

Congressman Skeen was well respected on both sides of the aisle. He was an earnest and capable legislator, a worthy adviser and a true gentleman devoted to his family and dedicated to his constituents. His goodwill and humor are missed by all of us.

It is fitting and proper to honor Joe Skeen's life and public service with the designation of the Federal building in Roswell, New Mexico, as the Joe Skeen Federal Building.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to my colleague, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON).

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, when Joe Skeen was elected to the Congress, one of the first acts that he introduced in 1981 was legislation to name the Federal building in Las Cruces, New Mexico, after the man he replaced, the late-Congressman Harold Runnels, and I believe it is appropriate 23 years later to return the favor.

Joe Skeen won his election with a successful write-in campaign. It was only the third such victory in the history of the United States Congress, and during his nearly 22 years in the House of Representatives, he was a defender, a staunch defender, of New Mexico's rural lifestyle and its farming and ranching interests.

Even as Parkinson's began to claim his speech in his later years, Joe's sense of humor remained intact, and it is one of the things that all of us here treasure about him. Just about everybody in this body has a Joe Skeen story, something that makes us smile. One always knew if they had to go to talk to Joe about something, they might as well start smiling because before it was over he was going to make them laugh.

After 11 terms in the United States Congress, Joe decided to return to his ranch, a place that he described as being "at the center of my upbringing and which shaped my character and principles in life."

Joe's ranch in Picacho is 17 miles from pavement, and Joe was never a gentleman farmer. He was a farmer, a rancher and a gentleman. He could be